



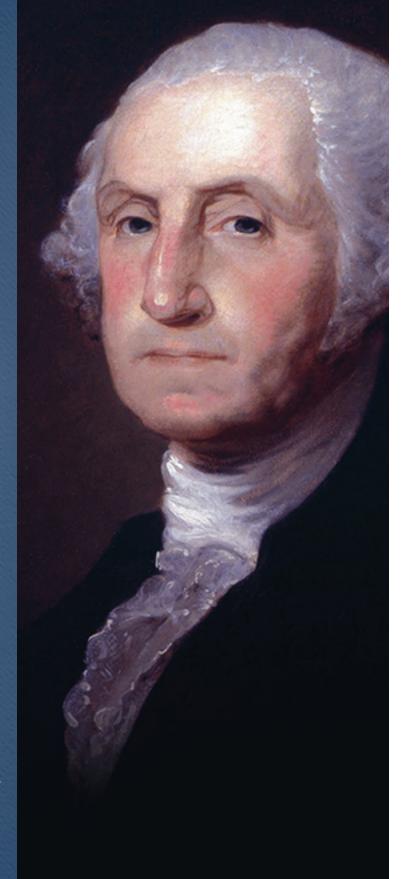
Diplomatic Reception Rooms
U.S. DEPARTMENT of STATE

Adolphe Phalipon (active c.1825–1880) Marquis de Lafayette c.1825 oil on canvas

Funds donated by the John Jay Hopkins Foundation

This portrait depicts Lafayette wearing the civilian clothes of a republican statesman, and shows a stunning likeness that Americans would have seen in 1824–1825.

The young Marquis de Lafayetté defied a king. This small act would forever change American history. From the lifelong friendship of George Washington and his adoptéd son, an alliance was forged between two great nations that shifted The course of war.



Gilbert Stuart (1755–1828) George Washington c.1803–1805 oil on canvas Gift of Mrs. Robert G. Stone

The making of a revolutionary. Lafayette's service to America.

"The marquis is determined to be in the way of danger."

General Greene, November 26, 1777

Soon after his arrival, Lafayette distinguished himself by serving as George Washington's aide-de-camp: "I have come here to learn, mon general, not to teach." Wounded in the Battle of Brandywine, Lafayette had fought bravely alongside Washington and was attended by Washington's personal physician.

A month later, the decisive victory in the Battle of Saratoga forced British General John Burgoyne to surrender his command to the continental army. Soon thereafter, the Treaty of Amity and Commerce and Treaty of Alliance bound France to the United States with a military alliance.

The fragile alliance was held together by diplomatic efforts, as Washington would advise his adopted son: "I, your friend, have no doubt but that you will use your utmost endeavors to restore harmony, that the honor, glory, and mutual

interest of the two nations may be promoted and cemented in the firmest manner."

Washington to Lafayette, September 1, 1778

To fulfill his adopted father's wishes, Lafayette advanced the American cause in France, obtaining pledges of support from King Louis XVI, "six ships of the line and 6,000 regular infantry troops." The involvement of France changed the course of war.

A guest at Mount Vernon, Lafayette wrote, "I assure you that in retirement General Washington is even greater than he was during the Revolution. His simplicity is truly sublime, and he is as completely involved with all the details of his lands and house as if he had always been there."

 $La fayette\ to\ wife, Adrienne,\ 1784$



Edward Savage (1761–1817) View of Mount Vernon c.1791, oil on canvas

Funds donated by the Endowment of the Diplomatic Reception Rooms

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

he unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of Homeric

Beloved by the American people,

Lafayette was proclaimed the

"last major general of the Revolution,"

and his return to the United States

was hailed as the Grand Tour.

On the 6,000 mile procession

through all twenty-four states,

Lafayette was presented with a

copperplate engraving of

The Declaration of Independence

made by William Stone.

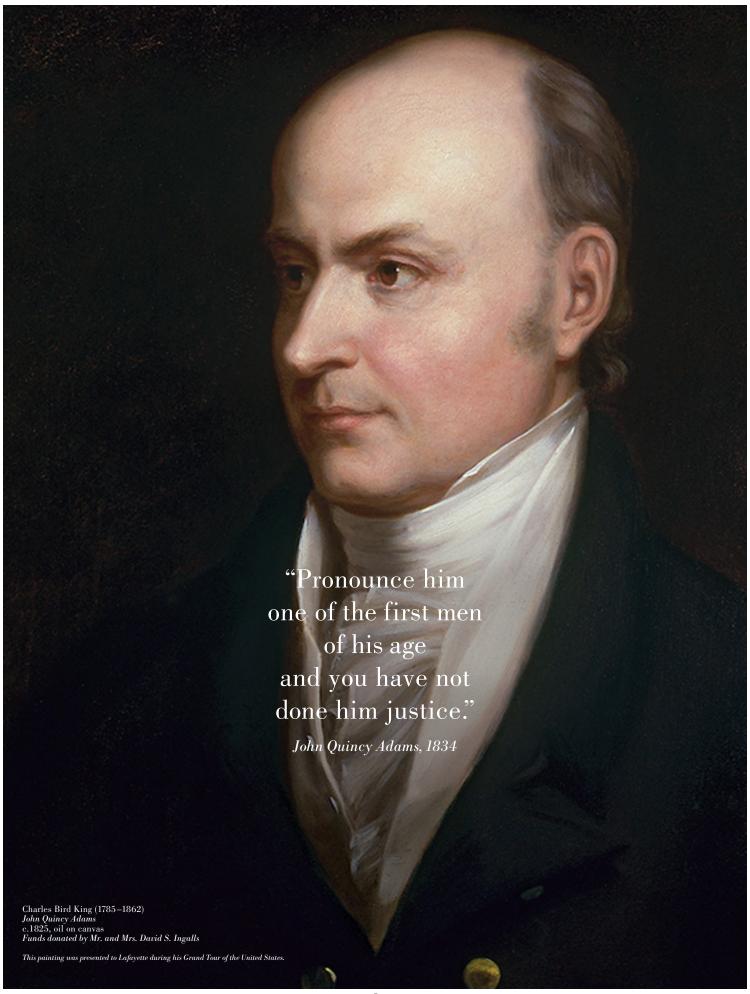
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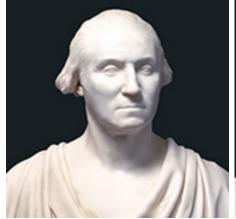
William Stone Declaration of Independence c.1823, parchment On loan from David Rubenstein The Majores of Jul. George Wigther former Lyand Jul. Dishort Henry Lee.

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Hiram Powers (1805-1873) George Washington c.1845–1855, marble Gift of Mrs. Marie L. Jones



Jean-Antoine Houdon (1741–1828) Marquis de Lafayette c.1786, marble Funds donated by the F. M. Kirby Foundation

A hero remembered. A nation's tribute to Lafayette.

"Our old warriors admire you; the young ones want to take you as a model."

Minister of War in France, 1782

In 1786, after fighting in the American Revolutionary War, Lafayette bid adieu to his adopted father, sailing to his ancestral home in France. In Paris, as in the United States, Lafayette was greeted as the "Hero of Two Worlds" on his triumphal return.

The Virginia Assembly ordered portrait busts of Washington and Lafayette, commemorating an alliance of two nations

through this symbolic friendship, for the statehouse and Paris.

Speaking of Lafayette, during the dedication at the Hotel de Ville, Thomas Jefferson offered these words: "In truth, I only held the nail; he drove it." Jean-Antoine Houdon (1741-1828) was chosen for the commission.



Pair of Pistol-Handled Vases



France, possibly Paris
c.1810–1830, porcelain
Funds donated by Mr. & Mrs. Frederick M. Lange in honor of former Ambassador and Mrs. George C. McGhee (left) Gift of Israel Sack, Inc. (right)

Timeline

June 13, 1777: Lafayette accepts an appointment as major general in the Continental Army.

September 11, 1777: Lafayette fights alongside Washington and is wounded in the Battle of Brandywine.

October 17, 1777: British General John Burgoyne is defeated in the Battle of Saratoga.

February 6, 1778: The signing of international treaties sees France and Spain enter the War for Independence as military allies of the United States.

June 28, 1778: Washington and Lafayette serve together in the Battle of Monmouth Court House.

January II, 1779-April 26, 1780: With Washington's blessing, Lafayette returns to France on a diplomatic mission.

September 28-October 19, 1781: At the Battle of Yorktown, united French and American forces join in defeating British General Cornwallis.

January 20, 1783: Britain, France, and Spain sign preliminaries to peace.

September 3, 1783: British and American commissioners sign the Treaty of Paris.

November - December, 1784: Lafayette visits Washington at Mount Vernon for the last time.

1788: Lafayette joins the New York Manumission Society for the abolition of slavery.

December 14, 1799: Washington dies at Mount Vernon.

August 16, 1824: Lafayette begins his Grand Tour.

May 20, 1834: Lafayette's death is mourned internationally.

Diplomatic Reception Rooms
U.S.Department of State
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The rooms are open to the public for tours daily.

The Diplomatic Reception Rooms are contributor supported. These beautiful rooms exist today thanks in large part to the generosity of public-spirited citizens—no tax revenue is used. Contributions continue to be needed to maintain and preserve these rooms, which reflect the best of America's early cultural accomplishments. If you wish to receive information on making a tax-deductible gift to the Diplomatic Reception Rooms, please contact us.

 $This\ brochure\ is\ generously\ underwritten\ by\ the\ F.\,M.\ Kirby\ Foundation.$